

Patent claims

1. A device for wet treatment of laundry, in  
5 particular a washer-extractor (10, 41), with an  
inner drum (12) which is rotationally driven about  
a rotation axis (11) and can preferably pivot  
about at least one pivot axis (22, 27) extending  
transversely with respect to the rotation axis  
10 (11) and which receives the laundry that is to be  
treated, the inner drum (12) having at least one  
front-end opening (13), characterized in that the  
inner drum (12) has a single front-end opening  
(13), and a door (29, 46) is assigned where  
15 appropriate to this opening (13).
2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in  
that the opening (13) is assigned a separate door  
(29, 46) which is preferably separated from the  
20 inner drum (12) in such a way that it does not co-  
rotate with the inner drum (12) and also cannot  
pivot, or can pivot only to a limited extent, with  
the inner drum (12).
- 25 3. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that the door (29, 46) can be  
moved toward the opening (13) of the inner drum  
(12) and away from the opening (13), and otherwise  
the door (29) is preferably stationary relative to  
30 the inner drum (12).
4. The device as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized in that the water-permeable  
inner drum (12) is surrounded by a water-  
35 impermeable drum housing (14) having a single  
opening (15) which is arranged adjacent to the  
(only one) opening (13) of the inner drum (12) and  
which corresponds with the opening (13) of the  
inner drum (12), the opening (15) of the drum

housing (14) and the opening (13) of the inner drum (12) being [lacuna] by the same and only one door (29, 46).

5     5.     The device as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46) is  
assigned to the inner drum (12) and/or the drum  
housing (14) in such a way that, in a position of  
10     the inner drum (12) in which the rotation axis  
   (11) thereof extends approximately horizontally  
   (operating position), the opening (15) of the drum  
   housing (14) and/or the opening (13) of the inner  
   drum (12) is located next to the door (29, 46),  
   and can preferably be driven against at least the  
15     single opening (15) in the drum housing (14).

6.     The device as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46) is  
assigned to the opening (15) of the drum housing  
20     (14) in such a way that, in the operating position  
   of the drum housing (14) with the drum (12)  
   rotating therein, preferably with the rotation  
   axis (11) of the inner drum (12) approximately  
   horizontal, the opening (15) can be closed by the  
25     door (29, 46).

7.     The device as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46)  
has at least one seal (37, 55) which corresponds  
30     with a sealing face surrounding the opening (15)  
   in the drum housing (14) and which seals the  
   separate, preferably substantially stationary door  
   (29, 46) off from the drum housing (14).

35     8.     The device as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46)  
can be moved toward and away from the opening (15)  
of the drum housing (14) and has a door support  
(30, 50).

9. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46) is to be at least partially opened, in particular by a relative movement of an inner door (47) relative to a door frame (48).
10. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the entire door (29, 46), in particular the inner door (47) and the door frame (48), can be moved to and fro, and the door (29) or door frame (48) is connected to the preferably stationary door support (30, 50) via a flexible connecting means.
11. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46) is preferably stationary like the door support (30, 50), and the drum housing (14) can be driven with the inner drum (12) along the rotation axis (11) of the inner drum (12) in the direction toward the door (29, 46) and/or the door support (30, 50).
12. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the door (46) is arranged in a dividing wall (43) between a dirty area (42) and a clean area (44), and in this case the entire door (46), specifically both the inner door (47) and the door frame (48), can preferably be moved to and fro in a direction perpendicular to the dividing wall (43).
13. The device for wet treatment of laundry, in particular a washer-extractor (10, 41), with an inner drum (12) which is rotationally driven about a rotation axis (11) and can preferably pivot about at least one pivot axis (22, 27) extending transversely with respect to the rotation axis (11) and which receives the laundry that is to be

- 5 treated, and a preferably stationary drum housing (14) surrounding the inner drum (12), in particular as claimed in one of claims 1 through 12, characterized in that the inner drum (12) and the drum housing (14) surrounding it can pivot about the at least one pivot axis (22, 27) into any desired loading positions.
- 10 14. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the inner drum (12) with the drum housing (14) can be pivoted into such loading positions, the rotation axis (11) of the inner drum (12) extending perpendicularly or at an angle of up to 60° to the perpendicular, and 15 the pivot axis (27), in particular at least one of two opposite axle journals (26) for forming the pivot axis (27) of the drum housing (14), is assigned a direct drive (28) for pivoting the drum housing (14) with the inner drum (12) mounted 20 rotatably therein.
- 25 15. The device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that at least one axle journal (26) of the pivot axis (27) of the drum housing (14) is assigned at least one delivery means for at least one medium for wet treatment of the laundry, and the delivery means is preferably configured as an axial passage for the at least one medium.
- 30 16. The device as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that a free front end of the at least one axle journal (26) is assigned a rotary attachment for at least one admission line for delivering at least one medium to the inside of the drum housing 35 (14).
17. The device for wet treatment of laundry, in particular a washer-extractor (10, 41), with an inner drum (12) which is rotationally driven about

a rotation axis (11) and can preferably pivot about at least one pivot axis (22, 27) extending transversely with respect to the rotation axis (11) and which receives the laundry that is to be treated, and a preferably stationary drum housing (14) surrounding the inner drum (12), in particular as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the at least one medium necessary for the wet treatment can be delivered to the inside of the drum housing (14), in particular of the inner drum (12), through a door (29, 46) assigned to the opening (15) of the drum housing (14).

18. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the door (29, 46) is stationary while the inner drum (12) is being driven in rotation.

19. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the at least one medium can be delivered to the inside of the drum housing (14) or of the inner drum (12) through at least one preferably closable passage in the door (29, 46), in which case the at least one passage is preferably assigned to an inner circle segment (35) of the door (29) or of an inner door (47) of the door (46).

20. A method for wet treatment of laundry, in particular in a washer-extractor (10, 41), in which method an inner drum (12) that can be driven in rotation about a rotation axis (11) is loaded with the laundry or other items that are to be treated, and the laundry or other items are then washed and preferably spin-dried, characterized in that loading is carried out with the rotation axis (11) of the inner drum (12) perpendicular or inclined relative to the perpendicular, and,

during loading, the inner drum (12) is driven in rotation at least intermittently about the rotation axis (11).

- 5 21. The method as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that, during loading, the inner drum (12) is driven at such a speed of rotation that the laundry or items in the inner drum (12) experience a centrifugal acceleration of up to 25 g.
- 10 22. The method as claimed in claim 20 or 21, characterized in that, during loading, the rotation axis (11) of the inner drum (12) is inclined maximally relative to the perpendicular to such an extent that the laundry or other items for the most part still reach the bottom area of the inner drum (12) lying opposite the opening (13).
- 15 23. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, during loading, the rotation axis (11) of the inner drum (12) is inclined relative to the perpendicular by a maximum of 60°, preferably by not more than 50°, in particular 40°.
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